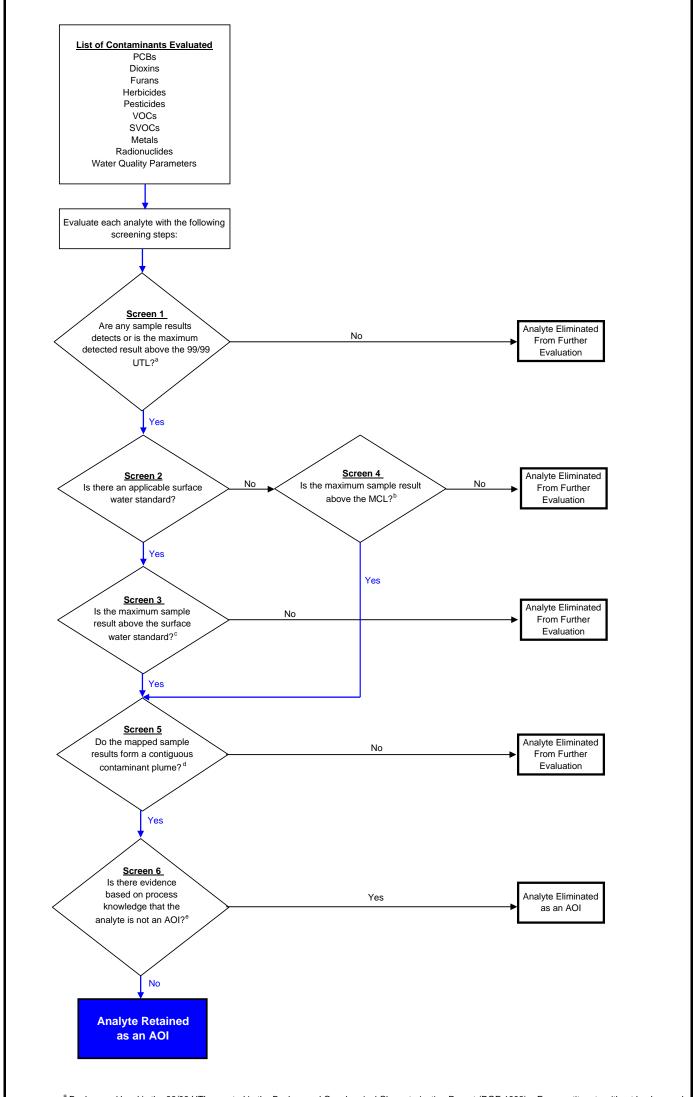
Figure 12
Groundwater AOI Screening Process



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Background level is the 99/99 UTL reported in the Background Geochemical Characterization Report (DOE 1993). For constituents without background 99/99 UTL values, such as organic compounds and select inorganic and radionuclide constituents, it was assumed that detection of these constituents indicates their presence in the environment. These constituents were carried forward to Screening Step 2.

<sup>e</sup>DOE recognizes that process knowledge at RFETS is not perfectly known. However, process knowledge alone is not used to retain or eliminate a constituent as an AOI. Other analyte criteria such as its areal distribution relative to RFETS activities, its proximity to contaminant sources, accelerated actions performed to remove contaminant source(s), and its natural occurrence and distribution in the environment are also considered when evaluating whether to retain or eliminate a constituent as an AOI.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> For analytes without a surface water standard, Screen 4 is performed using the MCL. MCLs have been established by EPA for many chemical contaminants and represent the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are listed at 40 CFR 141. If the PQL is higher than the surface water standard or MCL, the PQL is used as the comparison value. For simplicity, MCLs and PQLs are hereinafter referred to as MCLs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Surface water standards are not available for some analytes. For these analytes Screen 4 is performed using MCLs. See footnote b above.

d Data shown on the maps represent the most recent sample result available at each well. A contiguous plume is defined as three or more adjacent wells with concentrations or activities above background and either the surface water standard, MCL, or PQL, whichever is applicable.